

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, 6, and 10 remain in the application with claims 1 and 10 having been amended hereby.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested of the rejection of claims 1, 5, 6, and 10 under 35 USC 102(b), as being anticipated by Cellier et al.

As explained in the present specification, this invention is intended to take care of a problem in which supplied audio signal is somewhat unknown and, therefore, difficult to decode because it is not known whether that incoming audio signal is noise or compressed audio data or some specialized kind of data not easily decoded.

This is dealt with in the present invention by detecting whether the supplied data contains successive zero data for a predetermined period of time, in which case it is determined that the audio data are compressed and the input data are then suitably decoded. The problem is that in some situations, such as double-speed reproduction, rapid speed, or skip, the typical decoder is unable to make the proper decoding operation and, according to the present invention, by detecting the zero data that continues for a predetermined period of time, it is determined that the input signal is, in fact, a digital data stream of compressed sound suitable for decoding.

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended hereby to emphasize the above-noted features of the present invention.

Cellier et al. relates to a system for compressing digital audio data in which it is intended to eliminate any

loss that may occur in the compression operation. Cellier et al. operates by using a probability density function to map the statistics of the audio signal on a block basis, in order to select an optimal encoding table from a number of tables made available. In order to determine whether or not the data has been already compressed, as shown in Fig. 7 a bit 15 of word 702 is provided to indicate whether the audio sample contents of the block represent compressed or noncompressed data.

It is respectfully submitted that the approach of Cellier et al. is not the same as that of the present invention and, in fact, would not lead one to perform the operation of the present invention, because Cellier et al. knows in advance what bit to look at to determine whether the data in the block has been compressed. On the other hand, the present invention is confronted with an audio signal that is not known and there is no possibility of looking at a specific bit in a block to determine whether the data has been compressed. Rather, as shown in Fig. 2B, for example, there is a period of zero data that occurs in the compressed audio data signal, and it is this period of zero data that is detected in order to perform the proper decoding.

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that Cellier et al. fails to anticipate the present invention by its failure to disclose the detection of the zero data for a continuous, predetermined period of time.

Accordingly, by reason of the amendments made to the

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claims hereby, as well as the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that an audio data signal processing method and apparatus as taught by the present invention and as recited in the amended claims is neither shown nor suggested in the cited reference.

Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jay H. Maioli".

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